



Introduction: Walkable Communities



A Walkable Community is Safe

People will only walk if they feel they can make the trip safely.

This means that:

- Traffic calming devices limit speeds in the neighborhood
- Motorists respect the rights of pedestrians
- Speeding and alcohol laws are strictly enforced
- Pedestrians understand what the risks are and how to avoid them

A Walkable Community Provides Access

People will walk only if they can get to where they want to go on foot.

This means having:

- A complete sidewalk system
- Intersections that pedestrians can cross safely
- Ramps for those with disabilities
- Shops and businesses located within easy walking distance

In short, the community provides pedestrians the same care and attention as motorists because they are an equally important part of the traffic mix.



Pedestrian Safety

National Problem -- Community Tragedy

Every year, almost 6,000 pedestrians are killed and 90,000 injured. This tragic human toll costs the nation almost \$20 billion per year in medical expenses, lost productivity, insurance benefits and other societal costs.

In many cases, these deaths and injuries take place in communities that have lost touch with their pedestrians. Sidewalks have become a thing of the past. Motorists speed through neighborhoods without regard to children playing in the street. The environment is definitely not WALKABLE!

Does this sound like your community?

Take charge of your community's safety -- and protect your pedestrians. Reclaim your streets and revitalize your neighborhoods and business districts.



How Can I Take Action?

The Pedestrian Safety Road Show -- A Good Place to Start

The Pedestrian Safety Road Show is a free, four-hour seminar for your community -- to help you develop your own approach to identifying and solving problems that affect pedestrian safety and walkability.

Road Show Highlights

- Identification of pedestrian safety and walkability problems faced by communities
- Facilitation of community-based response to the problem
- Identification of available resources
- Development of framework for getting started

Participants will actively work together during this seminar, to identify their community problems and develop preliminary strategies. The goal is COMMITMENT to creating a more walkable environment for pedestrians!

If you are ready, willing and committed to making your community more walkable, the Pedestrian Safety Road Show can help ensure your success.

Who Should Attend?

Pedestrian safety problems cannot be solved by any one person -- this requires the collective effort of all segments of the community. The Pedestrian Safety Road Show is designed for:

- Elected officials and other decision-makers
- Traffic engineers and planners
- Metropolitan Planning Organization staff
- Law enforcement officers
- School/PTA representatives
- EMS personnel
- Safety advocates
- Business leaders and developers
- Youth group and senior citizen representatives

- Anyone who cares about pedestrian safety

Are You Ready To Host A Road Show?

Contact: Pedestrian Program
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary, P-15
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590
or
FAX L.Boodlal, 202-366-3222.

Seminar instructor and materials will be provided. Your organization will provide the facility and invite the participants.
Please send for materials that will describe how you can customize the Road Show to meet your community's special needs.

Tools and Resources

The Pedestrian Safety Road Show is just one of many tools and resources that have been developed by the U.S. DOT to help communities identify and address their pedestrian safety problems.

These resources include:



Walk! -- A 12-minute motivational video that encourages private citizens as well as community leaders to get involved in the pedestrian safety problem.



Pedestrian Safety Road Map & Resource Catalog -- A annotated listing of the technical resources that are available from DOT to support a community at each step along the way.



Pedestrian Safety Tool Kit -- A detailed manual on how to implement a community pedestrian program and copies of selected materials to support each step along the road to building a more walkable community.



These materials will be provided to your community as part of the Pedestrian Safety Road Show package. You can also order them separately by writing to the U.S. DOT.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead